



Prescribed Fire

Prescribed fire is a widely used land management tool in Missouri. Prior to European settlement, Native Americans set fire to prairies and forests to clear land, alter the movement of wildlife, and spur the growth of particular plants. Today we utilize prescribed fire on hundreds of thousands of acres across the state to control woody plants and herbaceous weeds, and improve plant diversity and wildlife habitat on prairies and grasslands, savannas, woodlands, glades and oak-hickory forests.

As land managers continue to test and refine best practices in applying prescribed fire, we are seeing a growing use of prescribed fire on the urban landscape. Park departments, schools, and private landowners around St. Louis are utilizing fire to manage native prairies, grasslands and woodlands. St. Louis County Parks uses fire to manage over 250 acres in 13 parks; St. Charles County Parks manages 300 acres in 6 parks with fire. Kirkwood Parks and Fire Department staff burn a small prairie planting at Kirkwood Park.

Two schools in Parkway and Lindbergh School Districts use fire to manage small prairies. MDC staff utilize fire at Powder Valley, Columbia Bottom, Busch Wildlife Area, Weldon Springs and St. Stanislaus Conservation Areas, and partner with St. Louis Archdiocese to burn at Calvary Cemetery prairie remnant in northern St. Louis City.

Employing prescribed fire requires the appropriate training, planning and equipment. In an urban area, fire is only utilized under specific weather conditions for both fire safety and smoke management. Humidity, wind direction and speed, and atmospheric ceiling conditions are defined for a prescribed fire at a particular site in a burn plan. Burn plans also lay out who must be contacted prior to ignition (e.g., the local fire department), how many trained members must be on the fire crew, the boundaries of the area to be burned, and the path for the fire crew to follow when igniting and controlling the fire. A definitive and thorough burn plan is a necessity for the application of fire anywhere and plans are very specific for fires in an urban setting.



MDC offers support for landowners and communities wanting to use prescribed fire to meet conservation goals. We offer workshops, some equipment for loan, and grant support to urban habitat improvement projects including the contracted application of prescribed fire.

While fire is not an absolute necessity to manage an urban prairie, it is the most efficient and effective tool for combating exotic plants and maintaining plant diversity. Management through mowing and spot spraying of herbicide can work too, but in urban areas where invasive plant sources are abundant, prescribed fire remains king of long-term success of prairie and grassland projects.

by ERIN SHANK, urban wildlife biologist

Field Burn at Busch CA



Photo courtesy of Mark Grueber

Jay Henges Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road, High Ridge, MO 63049 • mdc.mo.gov/node/299



From the east/St. Louis
I-44 west to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Left over I-44 to Antire Road. Right on Antire. One hundred feet to entrance. Left into driveway.

From the west/Eureka
I-44 east to Beaumont Antire Road, exit 269. Follow exit lane around to top.

HOURS:

May 1–August 31

Wednesday: 1–7:30 p.m.

Thursday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

September 1–April 30

Wednesday–Sunday: 10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-938-9548** or email henges.range@mdc.mo.gov with your name and phone number to sign up for a program requiring registration. If calling, leave a detailed message on ext. 1755. Reservations will be accepted beginning at 12 a.m. on the day of registration. You will be contacted for confirmation. Up to two reservations are allowed per registration; groups should contact the range for more information. If you are unable to attend, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Women's Basic Handgun, Part 1 and 2

Nov 7 and 9 • Thursday • 6–8 p.m. and
• Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 16 and up)

This two part women's program will include handgun operation, shooting fundamentals, safety, maintenance, and safe storage. We begin Thursday evening in a classroom session, then have a live-fire session on Saturday morning. Although equipment and ammunition will be provided, you may bring your own to the Saturday morning live-fire session. Anyone under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on October 7.)

Trigger Time–Handgun

Nov 16 • Saturday • 8:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 18 and up)

Trigger Time is "hands-on" personal instruction designed to make you a better marksman. There is no classroom

time, just expert one-on-one instruction from one of our highly qualified staff. Participants are required to provide their own handguns and at least 100 rounds of ammunition. This program is not appropriate for beginners. Effort=Moderate. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on October 16.)

Youth .22 Rifle

Nov 30 • Saturday • 8–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 9–15)

Interested young people who have never had experience shooting .22 rifles are invited to participate in a Saturday morning session learning safety and the proper techniques of shooting .22 rimfire rifles in a controlled safe environment. Firearms, ammunition, and safety equipment are provided. Effort=Mild. (Reservations begin at 12 a.m. on October 30.)

Range Closed

Nov 28 • Thursday



© National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.

Conservation makes Missouri a great place to hunt and fish.

Busch Shooting Range and Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/270

Women's Introduction to Deer Hunting

Nov 6 • Wednesday • 6–9 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

This program provides students, new to hunting, an opportunity to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to safely enjoy the sport of whitetail deer hunting. We will cover biology, clothing, firearms, types of hunting, calling, safety and more. This course will take place at the August A. Busch Regional Office classroom. Ages 10-16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin October 7.)

Introduction to Muzzle Loading

Nov 7 • Thursday • 6–8:30 p.m.

• Nov 9 • Saturday • 7:30–9:30 a.m.

(Ages 11 and up)

Want to try an alternative method to harvest deer? Learn the basics of shooting a muzzleloader. On Thursday we will cover safety, types of muzzleloaders, powders, bullets, loading and more. This will be held in the August A. Busch Regional classroom. On Saturday we will head to the range for live fire. Ages 11-16 must be accompanied by an adult. (Reservations begin October 7.)

Range Closed

Nov 28 • Thursday

Youth Hunter Education Challenge Kickoff Meeting

We will be hosting a YHEC informational meeting in December for youth ages 11 through 18 interested in participating in the 2014 YHEC competition. The competition includes .22 rifle, shotgun, archery, muzzleloader, orienteering, wildlife identification, a hunter safety trail and a written exam. Interested youth must attend this meeting with a Parent or Guardian. For more information contact Frank Scott at 636-262-5625.



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 5 miles. The area entrance is on the south side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

December 1–March 31

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 1–November 30

Monday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday: 10 a.m.–4 p.m. and Tuesday: 2–8 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to register Monday through Friday 8 a.m.–5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Forest Park Office

5595 Grand Drive, St. Louis, MO 63112 • mdc.mo.gov/node/10254



From I-44 take Kingshighway north to West Pine Blvd, turn left. Follow West Pine to Lindell, turn left. Continue on Lindell past Union Drive to Cricket, turn left. Take first right onto Grand Ave. The visitor's center is on the right.

HOURS:

Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-1309** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Leaf Celebration

Nov 11 • Monday • 10–2 p.m.

(Ages 9–13)

For many, Fall is a favorite time of year to discover nature. We're celebrating in the forest today! We will come full circle from learning how to identify leaves, leaf color exploration, leaf matter and, indeed, a leaf craft. Bring a sack lunch and water bottle for lunch. The program is entirely outdoors so make sure to wear comfortable, warm clothing. The celebration will gather at pavilion #11 in the JFK Memorial Forest & Outdoor Classroom. (Reservations begin October 10.)

Tom Turkey Time

Nov 20 • Wednesday • 9:30–10:30 a.m.

(Ages 4–6)

Get an early start to your Thanksgiving by learning about wild turkey found in Missouri. Listen to the calls, examine a turkey wing and make a craft. (Reservations begin November 6.)

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271



From I-44 east take the Watson Road exit and turn left on Geyer. Cross over the bridge and turn left on Cragwold Road. Follow one mile to the entrance.

HOURS:

Building: Tuesday–Saturday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Daily: 8 a.m.–8 p.m. DST
8 a.m.–6 p.m. CST

Programs are free. Call **314-301-1500** to register. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Bears in Missouri!

Nov 5 • Tuesday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Do bears really roam over Missouri? You bet! Come to Powder Valley to explore the life of *Ursus americanus*, the black bear. Is it good or bad to have bears in Missouri? Let's discuss that! (Reservations begin October 22.)

Night Hike

Nov 15 • Friday • 6:30–8:30 p.m.

(Ages 6 and up)

Experiencing nature at night can be fun and exciting! Come to Powder Valley and try out your night vision along with your other senses as we hike the Broken Ridge trail (2/3 mile) and explore the bird feeder area in search of nocturnal animals. Dress for the weather, wear comfortable shoes, and bring a flashlight. (Reservations begin November 1.)

Scout Discovery Table: Endangered Species

Nov 16 • Saturday • 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

(All Ages)

Are bald eagles and bison still endangered species? What about passenger pigeons or barn owls? Find the answers to these and other questions about which species are endangered in Missouri. Cub Scout Bears can work on Sharing Your World With Wildlife: Achievement # 5e. (No reservations required.)

Scampering Squirrels

Nov 19 • Tuesday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 4 and up)

If you walk near woods or trees, the mammals you are most likely to see are squirrels. They are fun to watch as they run and jump and play, flick their bushy tails, chase each other up trees, bury acorns in the fall and dig them up again to eat in winter. But in spite of the

playfulness that makes squirrels fun to watch, they face the same challenges in their lives as any other kind of wildlife. Learn more about these lively little mammals as we celebrate their lives with activities and crafts. Please dress for the weather because if possible we will start by observing squirrels outdoors. (Reservations begin November 5.)

You and Me Under the Canopy

Nov 26 • Tuesday • 10–11 a.m.

(Ages birth–8)

Families, meet in the nature center lobby at 10 a.m. for a “nature” adventure. Make sure to dress for the weather because we won't be in the building long. Everyone will hike with the naturalist to a special place in the forest and enjoy a nature story under the canopy. (In case of inclement weather the program will be shortened to 30 minutes.) Reservations are not required and siblings are welcome!

Hallway Exhibit: The Nature Photography of Jonah Long



Jonah Long is a part-time clerical staff member at Powder Valley Nature Center in Kirkwood, Missouri. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from The University of Missouri – St. Louis. In addition to nature photography, he enjoys hiking, camping, and gardening with native plants. Jonah lives in St. Charles, Missouri with his wife and four cats.

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 • mdc.mo.gov/node/271

MANAGED DEER HUNT

Powder Valley's building and trails will be CLOSED Saturday, November 9 through Monday, November 11 for a managed archery deer hunt.

Missouri offers numerous managed deer hunts for archery, crossbow, muzzleloading, and modern firearms from mid-September through January. These hunts achieve deer management goals while also providing additional hunting opportunities. Hunters are selected by a weighted random drawing system.

One of the hunts this year will be held at Powder Valley. The deer population for the 112 acres is more than five times the desired density. Long term, the effects of this level of deer numbers include significant habitat destruction, a higher disease rate, and stress on the animals. Balance between a healthy habitat and continued viewing opportunities is the goal.

Junior Duck Stamp Best of Show Exhibit

Powder Valley once again welcomes the Junior Duck Stamp "Best of Show" pieces during the month of November. The Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program is a dynamic arts curriculum that teaches wetlands and waterfowl conservation to students in kindergarten through high school. Students complete a Junior Duck Stamp design as their visual "term paper." The Junior Duck Stamp *Best of Show* pieces are displayed throughout the United States from May until April the following year.



2013 Missouri Best of Show and National Second Place Winner
Snow Geese by Peter Coulter, 17 years old

Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center Holiday Closing

Powder Valley Nature Center and trails will be closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after, November 28 and 29, so our staff can enjoy time with their families. The nature center and trails will reopen Saturday, November 30, at 8 a.m.

Columbia Bottom Conservation Area

801 Strodtman Road, St. Louis, MO 63138 • mdc.mo.gov/node/298



From I-270 north, take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side.

HOURS:

Building: Wednesday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Area: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **314-877-6014** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Geocaching for Beginners

Nov 1 • Friday • 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

(Families)

As the weather gets cooler geocachers start coming out! This modern day treasure hunt combines technology and nature into an outdoor adventure. Learn about this exciting and challenging hobby. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin October 18.)



Dutch Oven Cooking

Nov 10 • Sunday • 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

(Families)

Cast iron cooking can enhance any experience in nature. There are certainly tasty benefits to practicing this valuable outdoor skill. Discover the basics of Dutch oven cooking including how to prepare food, temperature control, cleaning and more. We will provide all the fixings and coffee too. (Reservations begin October 20 and end November 3.)



Tanning Hides 101

November 10 • Sunday • 3–5 p.m.

(Ages 10 and up)

We all may remember being told as children, “I’ll tan your hide!” It made us stop. But did we know exactly how they would do it? Here is the opportunity to learn the proper way. We will learn what tanning is, how it happens, and all of the tools and steps necessary to carry out what sounds like such a menacing task. There is no need to pick your own switch for this, you just have to pick the hide you want to tan when you get home. (Reservations begin October 26.)

Hooray for Turkeys!

Nov 14 • Thursday • 10–11:30 a.m.

(Ages 3 and up)

Thanksgiving is coming up. We will be eating turkey, but the turkeys are confused. They think they’re invited as guests, not part of the dinner. How

do they settle this dilemma? Indoors we’ll explore the life cycle of the turkey. Then, we’ll go outside to look for them and their tracks. Dress for the weather and wear shoes or boots you don’t mind getting dirty. (Reservations begin October 31.)

Golden Hour at the Mississippi

Nov 16 • Saturday • 6:15–7:30 a.m.

(Ages 15 and up)

Photographers call this time of day the “golden hour.” Find out why by taking an early morning walk to the edge of the Mississippi River. Watch the eastern sky change colors as dawn turns to daylight. Trees will be bare which will give us the opportunity to discover their intricate structures usually hidden beneath leaves. Dress for the weather and wear boots or shoes that can get muddy. Meet at the front entrance gate to Columbia Bottom. (Reservations begin November 2.)

Full Beaver Moon Surprise Walk

Nov 17 • Sunday • 4:30–6 p.m.

(Ages 7 and up)

The full beaver moon has risen and is bathing the woods and fields of Columbia Bottom with its silvery light. Take a brisk walk at Columbia Bottom where we will listen for the calls of southbound migrating geese overhead. The sounds of waterfowl resting and feeding in the wetlands may be heard while a coyote howls somewhere in the prairie. The trees have lost their leaves, and beavers gnaw at their bases while owls sit silently on their skeleton branches. The exact location of our walk will remain a secret until we are ready to start walking, when we will discover the wonderful surprises of these night sights and sounds. Dress for the weather. (Reservations begin November 3.)

August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area

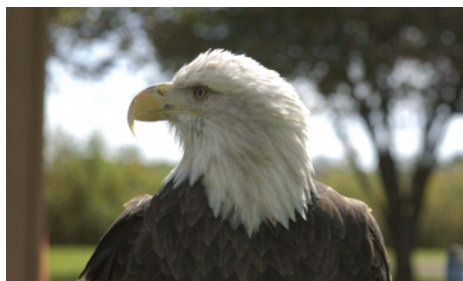
2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 • mdc.mo.gov/node/300

Those Awesome Stealth Flyers

Nov 2 • Saturday • 9:30–11 a.m.

(Ages 7–12)

Eagles, hawks, falcons and owls are magnificent and highly specialized birds that we call raptors. Learn what makes these birds-of-prey both masters of flight and supreme hunters. Find out why it is so important to protect these effective predators. We will be focusing on those raptors you might see in Missouri. (Reservations begin October 18.)



Migratory Bird Identification at Riverlands

Nov 9 • Saturday • 9 a.m.–noon

(Families ages 12 and up)

Do you know that we have some very special “out of town guests” which pass through our state in the fall? Some may even stay with us for the winter! Join us at the Audubon Center at Riverlands, north of I-270 near West Alton, to learn identification tips and all about their epic journeys. Presented in cooperation with the Audubon Center at Riverlands and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Please dress for the weather as we’ll be indoors and outdoors. (Reservations begin October 25.)

Volunteer milestones

Ed Horack 1,500 hours

Orienteering with Map and Compass

Nov 9 • Saturday • 12:30–4:30 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 and up)

No trail to follow on this two to three mile hiking experience. Learn to use a map and compass for navigation while in the classroom. Test new skills at finding fixed landmarks out in nature while off-trail. Effort = Easy to Moderate. Two to three miles over gentle hills. Briars and thick vegetation are present but can be avoided. (Reservations begin October 25.)

Off-Trail Navigation with Accuracy

Nov 16 • Saturday • 12:30–4 p.m.

(Families Ages 10 and up)

This is a two to three mile off-trail experience at Howell island Conservation Area, near Chesterfield. We’ll focus on accurate compass use, reading an area map, using GPS, and plotting your position. Your family will get an introduction to establishing GPS waypoints, “go to” and “track back” functions. Your newfound skills will be put to the test as the wooded island is flat and looks the same in all directions! Effort = Moderate. Flat terrain, off-trail hiking with some downed trees and vegetation to avoid. (Reservations begin November 1.)



From I-64/40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on D for approximately two miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

Area: Daily: 4 a.m.–10 p.m.

Programs are free. Call **636-441-4554** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Night Hike

Nov 23 • Saturday • 5:30–8:30 p.m.

(Adults)

Experience the sounds of the night during a moderate hike on the August A. Busch Memorial Conservation Area. We will hike the Busch Hiking/Biking Trail which is approximately 3.5 miles in length. During the hike we hope to hear frogs, insects, coyotes and even a few different species of owls calling their mates. Effort = Moderate. (Reservations begin November 8.)

We work with you and for you to sustain healthy forests, fish and wildlife.

Rockwoods Reservation

2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 • mdc.mo.gov/node/272



From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, then immediately right on Glencoe Road.

HOURS:

Building: Monday–Friday: 8 a.m.–5 p.m.
Area: Sunrise to one-half hour after sunset except authorized activities.

Programs are free. Call **636-458-2236** to sign up for a program requiring registration. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on the waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice.

Volunteer milestones

Jim Sandfort 500 hours



Backpacking at Meramec State Park – Homeschool Special

Nov 13 • Wednesday • 9 a.m.–Nov 14 • Thursday • 5 p.m.

(Ages 12 and up)

Let's hit the trail! Join our Naturalists for an unforgettable group backpacking trip, hiking 10 rugged miles on the Wilderness Trail at Meramec State Park. We are looking for new and novice backpackers that already possess hiking skills and stamina to experience this unique opportunity. We encourage you to provide your own equipment but we will also have limited supplies available to borrow free of charge. Attendance by at least one family member is mandatory for a "Pre-Trip Planning & Training" on Wednesday, November 6, 10 a.m.–noon. Effort = Strenuous. Backpacking is physically and mentally demanding. Please do not join this program if you have any health concerns, are not comfortable lifting heavy loads for long periods or sleeping on the ground. You will be expected to provide your own food, snacks and carry all of your supplies the entire trip. (Reservations begin October 23.)



Rockwoods Reservation backpacking trip to Meramec State Park

Wild Jams and Jellies

Nov 16 • Saturday • 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

(Adults)

Turn wild berries into delicious jams and jellies! Discover which native Missouri plants produce edible fruit and make delicious treats in time for Thanksgiving. (Reservations begin November 1.)

Turkey Trek

Nov 23 • Saturday • 1–3 p.m.

(All Ages)

How much do you know about Missouri's largest bird, the wild turkey? Did you know that their restoration in our state is truly an amazing story of conservation in action? Join us for an invigorating mid-November hike of the 2 mile Turkey Ridge Trail. As we progress along the trail we will discuss the habitat, food, calls and other habits of the wild turkeys. Effort = Easy to Moderate. (Reservations begin November 8.)

We help people discover nature.